



# Congressman Greg Walden

Remarks before the House of Representatives

January 18, 2007

## JACKSON COUNTY, OR

THE IMPACT OF CONGRESS'S FAILURE TO ACT ON THE  
SECURE RURAL SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY SELF-DETERMINATION ACT

Mr. Speaker. This Congress and the last have failed to keep the federal government's commitment to the people who live near our national forests.

This breach of faith means 100 hard-working county employees in Jackson County, Oregon will lose their jobs in June. That's 10 percent of the county's workforce.

Within three months, Jackson County will close all 15 county libraries and slash their road budget.

Remember the heart-wrenching search for the Kim family, lost in the national forest in southern Oregon? Jackson County used their equipment to help in that search - equipment and personnel paid for in part by the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act.

As Jackson County Commissioner C.W. Smith said, loss of this program is a "national domestic federal funding crisis."

I call on the new Democratic leadership to put H.R. 17 on the 100-hour agenda. Keep faith with rural school and counties. Keep the word of the federal government to timbered communities.